

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 IO-10 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EB-07 (ISO) W

----- 012349

R 221223Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8191

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: FRG-GDR RELATIONS

REF: A) BERLIN 291; B) BONN 2523

SUMMARY: BONN HOPES THE GDR WILL AGREE SHORTLY TO A DATE FOR THE OPENING OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DECEMBER PACKAGE OFFER. FRG OFFICIALS DO NOT BELIEVE DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF THE MODALITIES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE A MAJOR OBSTACLE. THEY THINK THE SOVIETS HAVE OF LATE TAKEN A MORE DIRECT HAND IN THE FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS, AND THIS MAY HAVE HAD A SLOWING EFFECT. WE HAVE HAD SOME CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

1. RESPONSIBLE BONN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE FRG-GDR PRELIMINARY TALKS ON THE GDR DECEMBER PACKAGE PROPOSAL EXPECTED THAT THE EAST GERMANS MIGHT HAVE AGREED IN MEETINGS LAST WEEK AND AGAIN AT THE
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BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK ON WHEN THE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS

COULD START, BUT THIS DID NOT PROVE TO BE THE CASE.
THEY HOPE TO GET A POSITIVE RESPONSE -- AND A DATE --
SHORTLY, PERHAPS NEXT WEEK.

2. OUR CONTACTS SAY THEY DO NOT ANTICIPATE MAJOR
PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSAL THEY PUT FORWARD
ON THE MODALITIES OF NEGOTIATION (REFTEL B). THE
WEST GERMANS PLAN ON A "CENTRAL NEGOTIATING DELEGATION"
WHICH WOULD HAVE A DIRECTING, COORDINATING ROLE OVER
THE WHOLE RANGE OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED, WITH
SUBORDINATE WORKING GROUPS DEALING WITH INDIVIDUAL
TOPICS. THE EAST GERMAN REPRESENTATION IN BONN HAS
BEEN CONVEYING THAT THE GDR COULD NOT ACCEPT THE FRG
APPROACH, BUT OUR CONTACTS DOUBT THAT THIS IS SO.
IT IS TRUE, THEY SAY, THAT THE GDR DOES NOT AGREE
WITH THE FRG CONCEPT, BUT THE EAST GERMANS HAVE NOT
GIVEN ANY REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THE DIFFERENCES
OF APPROACH COULD HOLD UP THE NEGOTIATIONS.
APPARENTLY EACH SIDE WILL MAINTAIN ITS
OWN APPROACH, THE WEST GERMANS ADHERING TO THE
"CENTRAL NEGOTIATING DELEGATION" CONCEPT, THE EAST
GERMANS PUTTING MORE EMPHASIS ON THE SUB-GROUPS,
WHICH WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF GIVING THE INDIVIDUAL
EAST GERMAN MINISTRIES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
MORE WEIGHT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THAN THEIR WEST
GERMAN COUNTERPARTS.

3. OUR CONTACTS BELIEVE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE
EAST GERMANS AND THE SOVIETS ON THE DETAILS OF THE
PACKAGE OFFER HAS GIVEN RISE TO SOME DISSATISFACTION
ON THE SOVIET SIDE. IF THE SOVIETS ARE IN FACT
PRESSING FOR TIGHTER COORDINATION, OUR SOURCES
SPECULATE, THIS COULD EXPLAIN THE SLOWER EAST
GERMAN APPROACH TO THE ACTUAL BEGINNING OF THE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03016

FRG-GDR TALKS. CURRENT UNCERTAINTIES IN COMECON
AND SPECIFICALLY IN SOVIET-GDR ECONOMIC
RELATIONS COULD ALSO BE A FACTOR.

4. A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED THE
FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS WITH US IN THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK
OF SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS. HE REPEATED THE FAMILIAR
POINT ABOUT SOVIET UNHAPPINESS WITH THE NEGATIVE
APPROACH TO OSTPOLITIK WHICH SUPPOSEDLY CHARACTERIZES
CURRENT FRG POLICY. THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT, HE
COMPLAINED, THOUGHT IT COULD RELEGATE OSTPOLITIK AS
A WHOLE, AND PARTICULARLY SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS, TO
A SUBORDINATE ROLE WHILE IT CONCENTRATED ON THE
FRG-GDR RELATIONSHIP -- THE ONLY ASPECT OF OSTPOLITIK
THE GERMANS WERE REALLY INTERESTED IN. THIS WAS
NOT GOOD ENOUGH, AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO REMIND BONN
OF POLITICAL REALITIES.

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5. COMMENT: THE CLEAR IMPLICATION OF THE SOVIET'S
REMARKS WAS THAT MOSCOW WOULD MONITOR THE FRG-GDR
TALKS CLOSELY AND USE THEM AS A LEVER IN SOVIET-FRG
RELATIONS. THE SOVIET VIEWS ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY
BY THE GERMAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE TALKS WITH
EAST BERLIN, WHO ARE NOW TALKING IN TERMS OF A
PROTRACTED NEGOTIATING PROCESS.
HILLENBRAND

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